

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

THIS REPORT CONTAINS ASSESSMENTS OF COMMODITY AND TRADE ISSUES MADE BY
USDA STAFF AND NOT NECESSARILY STATEMENTS OF OFFICIAL U.S. GOVERNMENT
POLICY

Voluntary Public

Date: 5/5/2011

GAIN Report Number: ID1117

Indonesia

Post: Jakarta

Indonesian Approves the Food Safety of Transgenic Soybean and Corn

Report Categories:

Biotechnology and Other New Production
Technologies

Approved By:

Dennis Voboril

Prepared By:

Jonn Slette/Titi Rahayu

Report Highlights:

The Indonesian National Agency for Drug and Food Control (BPOM) recently issued the food safety decree for two transgenic soybean and two transgenic corn events

General Information:

The Indonesian National Agency for Drug and Food Control (BPOM) recently issued the food safety decree for transgenic soybean events. The decrees, signed April 13 by the Head of BPOM, are the final step in the food safety review process for transgenic events. Previous steps include the approval in February by the Indonesian Biosafety Committee for Transgenic Products, which proceeded a 60 day public comment period that ending in November 2010.

Previously - in a decree signed February 22, 2011 - BPOM issued the food safety decrees for two transgenic corn events. These products were approved by the Indonesian Biosafety Committee for Transgenic Products in October, 2010 (See GAIN Report ID1034).

The producer of these two transgenic corn events has proceeded to submit the applications for the environmental safety assessment with the Ministry of Environment. Currently, the Biosafety Committee for Transgenic Products' Technical Team is processing the applications for the next round of public comments, specific to environmental safety. Once the producer receives a decree approval from the Ministry of Environment, the transgenic corn seed must fulfill the Plant Variety requirement (Minister of Agriculture's decree No. 37/2006) by undergoing field trials in 16 locations throughout Indonesia that must be conducted for two crop cycles.

Provided that the field trials are successful, the events may then be fully commercialized in Indonesia, with the seeds being licensed by the National Seed Agency, an agency within the Ministry of Agriculture. This could happen as early as the second half of 2012.

The Indonesia Biosafety Committee for Transgenic Products became fully functional again in July, 2010 following the appointment of a new Chairman. This reflects the apparent desire of the Government of Indonesia to become more aggressive on approving biotechnology as part of its broader policy on Food Security and also on agricultural adaptation to Climate Change. As the approval process continues to evolve, it is expected the food safety and environmental safety assessments will become more routine.

At present, the Indonesia Biosafety Committee for Transgenic Products is reviewing the food safety assessment of two more transgenic corn events, as well as the environmental safety assessment of drought tolerance transgenic sugar cane events. Public comment periods for all of these events ended in March 2011.

